

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00746 081338Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /131 W
-----016799 090007Z /66

R 081300Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2114

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0746

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TD
SUBJECT: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S GAS RESERVES

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT OFFICIALS IN VARIOUS WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE BEEN QUOTING AN ESTIMATE OF 30-32 TRILLION CUBIC FEET AS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S POTENTIAL GAS RESERVES. SOURCE FOR THIS ESTIMATE WAS SAID TO BE LETTER OF JULY 7 FROM PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS TO SECRETARY VANCE PROPOSING ECONOMIC BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS.

2. THIS ESTIMATE IS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THAT COMMONLY USED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. WE UNDERSTAND FROM OFFICIAL OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND MINES THAT PROVEN RESERVES ARE NOW 8.5 TRILLION CUBIC FEET, AND TOTAL RECOVERABLE RESERVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE WITHIN 14-18 TRILLION CUBIC FEET. FIGURE OF 31 TRILLION CUBIC FEET USED IN ENCLOSURE TO WILLIAMS LETTER (TABLE IV) INCLUDES LARGE ELEMENT OF GUESSWORK AS TO WHAT POSITION MIGHT BE IF ALL RESERVES WERE KNOWN, AND BEARS NO RELATION TO POTENTIAL FOR EXPLOITATION IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. GOTT HAS COMMISSIONED A STUDY OF THE PRESENT RESERVE POSITION BY AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT. WE WILL ADVISE RESULTS
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PAGE 02 PORT O 00746 081338Z

WHEN THESE ARE AVAILABLE. IN THE INTERIM, HOWEVER, WE RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES USE 14-18 TRILLION CUBIC FEET FIGURES, WHICH ARE MORE REALISTIC, IN EMBASSY'S VIEW.
FOX

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, GAS RESERVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTO00746
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780105-0304
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780393/aaaadamh.tel
Line Count: 60
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ac197cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3404488
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S GAS RESERVES
TAGS: ENRG, TD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ac197cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014